

DESCRIPTIONS OF A FEW NEW PARASITES OF
PESTS, AUSTRALIAN MOSTLY.

By A. A. GIRAULT, B.Sc.

I have in the following pages given descriptions of a few new Chalcididae parasitic upon pest insects. The first species is an entedonine from New Guinea, also interesting because it so closely resembles its Australian congeners; and represents a distinct though as yet little known genus. *Pleurotropis* is better known; but this Australian genus bears a *prong-shaped* median carina (propodeon) and a median groove distad on the scutum. So it is different from the mentioned European and extra-Australian genus. From the 7-8 Australian species it is distinct mainly in bearing the legs half metallic (to the knees), the scape white.

*ENTEDONINAE.**Apleurotropis lalori* nov.

Metallic blue and as the other species. Coxae and femora concolorous. Petiole square, white, the scape white except at apex wings hyaline. Scape dilated, widest at distal two-thirds, thrice longer than wide, long; pedicel twice longer than wide at apex, equal to the second club joint but thicker (the pedicel is even a little longer than stated): first and second funicle segments equal, about thrice longer than wide, No. 3 slightly shorter, the first club segment longer than the second and still shorter than the third funicle segment, the second club segment bearing a curved spicule nearly as long as itself.

Median groove of the scutum at distal half. Eyes hispid (more densely than in the genotype). Segment No. 2 of the abdomen a fourth part of the surface, the longest segment, then the penultimate or seventh, the rest transverse. Stigmal vein short, curved, its neck as long as the knob, the postmarginal elongate. Antennae inserted between the eye-end and the middle of the face. Hind femora swollen, the hind tibial spur stout, short, but exceeding the dorsal length of the metatarsus. Prong of the median carina (propodeon) with the space between twice longer than wide, a third the length of the rest, which consists of a solid, strong carina; the lateral carina is also strong. Hind tibiae short. Mandibles as in the genotype. Face, vertex hispid. Lateral ocellus over its diameter from the eye, still further from the median and still further yet from each other. The lateral carina is

nearly perpendicular at less than the basal half, then gently curves far disto-laterad; the small, round spiracle is not right on to it and is cephalad. Sunken part of the parapside glabrous, its bristle meso-sephalad of its centre. Scutum and parapside transverse-reticulate; propodeon glabrous. Pronotum at caudal half glabrous, divided at the half. Scutellum scaly longitudinally, its apex and the postscutellum glabrous. Inner margin of the eye concave.

As compared with the genotype (types) stouter slightly, the sculpture of the scutellum coarser slightly, and the hind femur is slightly stouter; the outer palpus is darker, its terminal seta exceeding the part. No other differences are seen. The basal and cubital nervures form the usual ciliated V in the wings of both species.

Six females reared out from the larvae of *Promecatheca*, a leaf-miner of cocoanut fronds, September 28, 1936, Manus, Terr. New Guinea, B. A. O'Connor. Types in the foreign department of the Queensland Museum.
Pseudacrias aspidomorphae nov.

This species may be known from the seventeen or eighteen other species of the genus as found in Australia by the following characteristics: Legs and scape concolorous; meson of the propodeon bicarinate only, the carinae separated at base; spicule normal; mandibles bidentate; median carinae of the propodeon diverging from base; funicle joints subequal to or exceeding the pedicel, at least the first oval or longer than wide; scutellum entirely sculptured; hind tibial spur elongate; of usual size; first funicle segment equal the pedicel; spicule bifurcate. As *quadricarinatus* as depicted in revised tables in respect to the parapsidal impression. Second segment of the abdomen two-thirds of the surface, nearly its distal half sculptured; first segment of the club equal to the pedicel. Close to *livida*.

The female has never been seen, the species being founded upon six males reared from the pupa of *Aspidomorpha* found upon a convolvulaceous plant at Brisbane, October 10th, 1929; the collector was Mr. A. R. Brimblecombe, as also the rearer.

EUPELMINÆ.

Eupelmus scarabaei nov.

In my synopsis of the Australian species, this one runs to *lavoisieri* Girault, but differs in the following

particulars: The middle white part of the ovipositor is nearly twice the length of either black part; segments Nos. 2-3 of the funicle each slightly exceed the pedicel; hind tibiae metallic only above.

The palpi are black. Segments Nos. 2-4 of the funicle are slightly over twice longer than wide, No. 6 square. Teeth Nos. 2-3 of the mandible are formed of a wide truncation of a second tooth with an emargination. Scape slender. Metatarsus long, slightly exceeding Nos. 2 plus 3. Fore tibiae rather widely yellow apically upon the sides. Eyes naked. Spiracle of the abdomen at the apex of the penultimate segment. Middle tibial spur subequal to the ventral length of joint No. 1 of the second tarsus.

In the male the fore tibiae, the apices of the others, the tarsi and the knees are non-metallic. The male antennae have not been seen and this sex is considerably smaller. Aeneous. Two pairs reared from a weevil, "York Road Poison Plant Weevil," Perth, West Australia, L. J. Newman.

Eupelmus mawsoni Girault *solis* nov.

This species has the ovipositor not or barely extruded; and there are several varieties, one of which is described herewith. The species is paired with *incredibilis* Girault, but that species has the second segment of the funicle equal to the pedicel.

The legs are entirely citrous or lemon colour except the fore and hind coxae, no traces of metallic; ovipositor brown widely at apex. The lateral ocelli are distinctly closer to the eye than to the median. The males are all blue except the middle of the sides of the fore tibiae, the base of the third tarsus and the fore tarsus for the most part. Scape compressed, a true ring-joint present, the club solid or unjointed, the first funicle segment a bit smaller than the rest, which are subequal to the pedicel and a bit longer than wide. Two males and one female from *Callitris*, Moreton Island, September 12, 1908, E. Jarvis.

PTEROMALIDAE.

Muscideopsis lecanii nov.

From the genotype: Segment No. 2 of the abdomen is over four-fifths of the surface; dorsal thorax coarsely reticulate (excluding propodeon), glabrous distad of the cross-furrow of the scutellum; abdomen dark red-brown or black suffused with reddish; flagellum dark brown, the

funicle segments Nos. 1 and 4 square (Nos. 2-3 smallest, somewhat wider than long, No. 5 largest, still somewhat wider than long). There is a weak, scanty tuft of longish hairs upon the base of the abdomen dorso-laterad, the second segment occupying practically the whole surface. Else the same but the venation pallid dusky. A female reared from *Lecanium persicae*, Perth, W. Australia, L. J. Newman.

NATURE IN RELENTLESS MOOD.

By J. EDGAR YOUNG.

Some time ago it was suggested by one or two of our members that I might write a commentary in our journal on the results to our wild life of various phases of Queensland weather during the latter part of 1936 and early part of 1937.

As this may be useful as a record not merely of the weather, but of matters concerning our birds, fish and other life, I will endeavour to record briefly the incidents as well as I can with the information to hand.

In the latter half of 1936, owing to the comparatively poor wet season and following lack of winter rains of much value, it was quite natural that the country began more and more rapidly to feel the consequences in the drying up of grass and water, which caused increasing inconvenience to various forms of wild life, forced migration being necessary in some cases, and inevitable death in others.

I have two reports from Mrs. L. M. Mayo, one of our enthusiastic ornithologists, regarding Lake Clarendon, a newly created wild life sanctuary near Gatton.

The first is one regarding her visit in October, 1936, in which she says that the water of the lake—a shallow bed—had at that time greatly receded, and it was difficult to get near the birds in the centre, owing to the black, sticky mud left on the margin.

Amongst the birds seen, she mentions the following: Nine *Egretta alba*, many spurwing, plover with young chicks, many white headed stilts, several black swans, a pair of marsh terns, some black ducks, some white-eyed ducks, white-necked herons.

Tringa glareola, and what appeared to be sharp-tailed stints wading in the water.